

## Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – February 22, 2021

**Members Present:** Phil Wedekind and Tom Kolb. Mike Plautz was absent. **Others Present:** Tom Pinion, Mark Schauf.

**Call to Order** - Committee Chairman Phil Wedekind called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at Baraboo City Service Center. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### Action Items

- a. Discuss signage and possibly additional traffic control for the Hill Street railroad underpass – Pinion presented background on the issue saying the Hill Street residents are more concerned about pedestrian traffic safety. Pinion's suggestion was to post on each side of the underpass "no pedestrians". Schauf stated that they only accident data is single vehicle intoxicated drivers hitting the side of the underpass. Pinion state that he looked into vendors for price quotes on some type of blinking warning light to notify oncoming traffic when a vehicle is proceeding into the underpass, with the cost being \$20,000 plus. Pinion gave a suggestion of yield to on-coming traffic with a 15 mph speed limit. Schauf said the extreme would be closing it to traffic; it would be turned into a dead end with pedestrians only. He does not feel that it is conducive to that, but that would be the extreme answer. It was stated that travel to get around would mean going out of the City limits. Kolb moved, Wedekind seconded to post signs on both sides of the underpass stating "yield to on-coming traffic" with a 15 mph speed limit. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Recommend levying Special Assessments in accordance with the Sidewalk Policy for new sidewalk on Remington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and Camp Street that will be installed as part of the 2021 Street Improvements – Pinion presented the background and explained the map of the proposed sidewalk and the trees to be removed. He said new sidewalk is planned on the east side of Remington Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets, both sides of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Remington and Jefferson Streets, and on the west side of Camp Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street south to the alley. Kolb moved, Wedekind seconded to recommend levying Special Assessments for sidewalk as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Review Bid Tabulations for 2021 Public Works Projects and recommend award of contracts – Pinion presented the bid tabulation for the 2021 Public Works Projects and recommended awarding all contracts to the low bidders. He said prices are comparable to last year, some areas going up and some going down. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to recommend awarding all contracts to the low bidder. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Review Proposals for Sidewalk Grinding and recommend award of contract– Pinion suggested awarding proposal to the low bidder. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to award contract to Expert Concrete Care. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Review Noxious Weeds & Rank Growth Proposals and recommend award of contract – Pinion said once again, there was one single bidder, Sunrise Properties. Moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to award contract to Sunrise Property Care. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Review STH 136 Median Mowing Proposals and recommend award of contract – Pinion said two proposals were received, Top 2 Bottom and Sunrise Lawn Care, with same prices as last year. Moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to award contract to Top 2 Bottom. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Review proposed STH 33 Pedestrian Refuge Islands as part of the planned reconstruction of STH 33 – Pinion gave the background saying that as part of the design for the impending reconstruction of STH 33, the DOT is considering including a pedestrian refuge island at several intersections; at the Camp Street (three-way) intersection and at the Wood/Center, Tuttle/Wheeler, and Jefferson/Jefferson offset intersections. He said that the locations were strategically placed so that they did not impair people the ability to access or exist their driveways. He said that the primary concern with the design folks at Tuttle is that it may impair bus traffic. He said in speaking with Lamers Bus Company, if it would create a problem that they could not overcome, they would not have a problem moving down to East Street. Schauf feels that the flashing beacons are highly effective. Peterson felt that the Jefferson Street refuge should be eliminated and force everyone to cross at Wheeler. Kolb felt that anything that can be done to enhance pedestrian safety would be well worth it. It was suggested to move Jefferson for S-E semi traffic.

- h. Review Proposals for Cast-In-Place-Pipe for 2021 Sanitary Sewer Lining projects and recommend award of contract – Peterson gave background. He said that three companies submitted proposals and all are reputable companies. He suggested the contract be awarded to low bidder, Michels. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to award the contract to Michels. Motion carried unanimously.
- i. Consider a prospective Intergovernmental Agreement for interconnecting watermain with the Village of West Baraboo – Pinion said that up until about ten years ago, the City provided West Baraboo with water, and then they put their own well in. He said that with the Highway 33 project there would be water mains being replaced and there is 300 feet of water main at the west end that would not need to be replaced. He said that this would be \$20,000 - \$30,000 worth of infrastructure and the City gets nothing to show for it. He said initially if this were to be done, West Baraboo was told that they would pay for it; however, it is Peterson's and his contention that there is a peace of mind that when their well is taken out of service, the City could still supply water. He said there is a value to this and he equates that to an insurance policy. He said that the Village feels that they should get this for nothing. He said that the Utility has applied for a rate increase because LSC Communications has left and when they talked to the PSC about this unique situation and would really like to include a provision in the rates that West Baraboo would pay. The PSC said that this is such an uncommon situation that it would have to be sent to the district administrator, which would delay the rate increase approval by at least six months. Peterson said that even if West Baraboo spent the money to install the 300 feet, they would gift it to the Utility and the Utility would pay tax on it. Pinion said to avoid delaying the rate case he suggests, with the Committee's concurrence, telling West Baraboo that at this time, the City is going to end discussion for the Intergovernmental Agreement. Pinion said that if we shut the door, but do not lock it, after our rates in place, they could still come back with another proposal. It was the consensus of the Committee to end discussion with West Baraboo at this time.
- j. Review and recommend approval to carry over funds budgeted in 2020 for improvements to the Public Works cold storage building – It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to approval to carry over funds budgeted in 2020 for improvements to the Public Works cold storage building. Motion carried unanimously.
- k. Review and approval of monthly Billing Adjustments/Credits for Sewer and Water Customers for January 2021 – It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to approve billing adjustments/credits as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

- a. **Utility Superintendent's Report**
  - i. Staffing Updates – No report
  - ii. Project Updates – Peterson said that there was a service break on Saturday at Jefferson and 9<sup>th</sup>. He said that they were in bankruptcy with LSC for \$102,300 ± and to the goodness of Pinion, the owner of the building of LSC wants some building permits to do some other work and Pinion told them as soon as they sent a check for \$102,000 we would give them a building permit, and it sounds like they will be paying the money owed.
  - iii. Water Rate Study progress – No report.
- b. **Street Superintendent's Report**
  - i. Staffing Updates – Pinion said that the department is still splitting shifts.
  - ii. Equipment Updates – Pinion said that the department is due to get the new plow truck this week, about one month in advance than expected. He said that they are looking at updates, at least some of the controls, maybe updating some of the actual equipment in the building; it is becoming more maintenance intensive.
  - iii. Monthly Report on Public Works Department – Pinion said that the County Board is slated to approve ATVs and UTVs on all county highways so they are asking for some feedback prior to March 8 if the local municipalities do not want that approved within the corporate limits. Pinion said that the City has been staunch on record that it is not a good idea, and unless the Committee tells him they are willing to consider it because of the County's willingness to consider it, then he will just remind them that nothing has changed.
- c. **Police Chief's Report**

- i. Staffing Update – Schauf said that there is still a detective’s position open. He said that the PFC has allowed him to get ready to make that so when that day comes they can make that promotion to detective and make that vacancy. He said that is budgeted. He said that Carl Ustupski has left the department to return to New Mexico to be nearer to his children. He said that they would be working on filling that position. The vacancy left by Deifel’s retirement has been filled.
- ii. Equipment Update – Schauf said on January the department lost their police truck to a crash on Broadway. He said that one of the officer’s was driving up Broadway when a vehicle came the wrong way down 3rd, blew right through where there should have been a stop sign and there was nothing that the officer could do. He said the truck was totaled, and it ended up being a non-budgeted expense to replace it, and looking about between \$2,000 - \$3,000 to replace it.
- iii. Case Response Update – He said that the department is doing okay. He said all the officers that wanted the COVID shot has had both.

d. Fire Chief’s Report – No report.

Wedekind asked Pinion what the County was doing at the hospital. Pinion said the County was waiting for the City. He said we have the advantage, grant money and can afford to do it. He said that we have a couple years yet of funding through TID 6 and that was something that was on the Administrator’s plate, so he hopes that Casey picks up the ball and runs with it.

**AJOURNMENT** – It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind to adjourn at 1:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Wedekind, Chairman